

December 30, 2005

DOT/PF
STIP Comments
Div. Of Program Development
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Faxed 12/30/05
465-6984

Hello,

I am opposed to the prioritization DOT/PF has given to various projects statewide. While my interest is SE, the change in priorities statewide from the 03-05 listing to the draft 06-08 is not acceptable.

Communities throughout the state have advocated and promoted many projects critical to improving safety and traffic flow only to have DOT/PF push those projects to 09 and beyond simply because our congressional delegation has tossed vast sums of money to Alaska to fund three large projects - Gravina, Juneau and Knik Access. I was pleased to see that Congress removed the markers for these large projects and can only hope DOT/PF places public need on small projects over a very shaky need for three large projects.

Listed below are a few comments on specific projects in SE.

1) Haines Highway - Environmental clearance in 1999 clearly means the funding and need exists to start in 06, not in later years. The upgrades and realignment in past years has been excellent.

2) Sunny Point - A very worthy project which received environmental clearance in 05 yet no construction until 09. The opening of Wal Mart and Home Depot will put additional pressure on this intersection and must be fully funded in 06.

3) Gravina Access - With the congressional marker being removed there is clearly no justification for the expenditure of \$299M in 06! All funding should be completely removed; this project simply cannot pass the Red Face Test and should never be funded. It also makes no sense to phase fund the bridge as there is no point in building a partial bridge that may never be fully funded.

4) Juneau Access - The funding must be moved to 09 and beyond. Why would DOT fund a project which is still being evaluated and will likely be litigated? The \$177M slated for 06 and 07 can do wonders for other community projects statewide. There is no logic to listing money for 09 and beyond as presented because what is the point of building a road if not full funding?

5) Bradfield/Stikine - While this project has been talked about for years this seems like a waste of public money to start an EIS when given the current federal deficit it is highly unlikely construction money will ever be available. Stop now and focus on real projects.

6) Glacier Highway - Keep this project moving ahead in the next three years and don't parcel the money out in 09 and beyond.

DOT/PF has a great opportunity to build many small projects that have been on the list for some time and these should not be pushed to 09 and beyond now that the congressional markers have been removed. I am pleased to hear that the legislature will be taking public comments as there are major problems with the draft proposal.

Sincerely,



Ron Schonenbach

16435A Pt. Lena Loop Road
Juneau 99801